

# MACGREGOR

## OF GLENSTRAE

**GREGOR**, is the first for whom there is credible evidence but of whom little is known other than he is named as grandfather to John dubh MacIain Cham VicGregor, in 1415. He was father of :

**IAIN CHAM MACGREGOR**, or “John the lame,” who is named in his son John’s patronymics. He *d.* at Glenorchy, was buried at Dysart on 19 April 1390,<sup>1</sup> and was father of :

**JOHH DUBH MACIAIN CHAM VICGREGOR**, *d.* at Stronmelochan in 1415.<sup>2</sup> He was succeeded by :

**PATRICK MACGREGOR OF STRONMELOCHAN**, was heir male and in all probability the son or more likely grandson to Juhn dubh, and was in possession of the lands of Stronmelochan, and others, by 15 March 1448/9, when he was witness to a charter by John Stewart, Lord of Lorne, to Sir Colin Campbell of Glenorchy, granting to him the lands of Letterbean, and others, in the Lordship of Lorne in contemplation of his having married Janet Stewart, his daughter.<sup>3</sup> He *d.* at Stronmelochan on 28 April 1461,<sup>4</sup> and was father of :

**JOHN DUBH MACGREGOR OF STRONMELOCHAN**, was witness to a Precept of Sasine by Colin, Earl of Argyll, for infefting his grandson Sir Colin Campbell of Glenorchy in the lands and lordship of Lorn, dated 17 December 1470,<sup>5</sup> and was included with Duncan Campbell of Glenorchy and about eighty others in a Remission under the Great Seal

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<sup>1</sup> Chronicle of Fortingal.

<sup>2</sup> Chronicle of Fortingal.

<sup>3</sup> GD112/1/7

<sup>4</sup> Chronicle of Fortingal.

<sup>5</sup> GD112/2/109/3

dated 19 October 1488.<sup>1</sup> He was witness to a Precept of Sasine by Archibald, Earl of Argyll, in favour of Duncan Campbell of Glenorchy for the lands of Cammislayish, Ardincaple and others, in the lordship of Lorne, on 24 September 1502,<sup>2</sup> and is named in a Bond by James Reideugh, King's Steward, confirming to Robert Menzies of that Ilk that he would not sell the lands of Drumcrosk to Archibald, Earl of Argyll, Sir Duncan Campbell of Glenorchy or John MacGregor of Glenstrae on 23 January 1504/5.<sup>3</sup> He *d.* at Stronmelochan on 24 May 1519, being buried in a stone cist (sepultus in cista lapidum) at Dysart,<sup>4</sup> and was father of :

**MALCOLM MACGREGOR**, *dsp vita patris* at Glenlyon and was buried at Dysart on 12 June 1498.<sup>5</sup>

**ALEXANDER MACGREGOR**, of whom little is known other than that he is named in the patronymics of his grandson John in 1519 and 1528. He was father of :

**EWEN MACGREGOR**, of whom little is known except that he was father of :

**JOHN MACEWEN MACALLISTER MACGREGOR OF GLENSTRAE**, succeeded to the lands of Glenstrae on the death of John dubh MacGregor and in contemplation of which Colin, Earl of Argyll, issued a Precept of Sasine for his infeftment in the lands of Stronmelochan, Moyan, Tullich, Castill, Dowletter, Corrachworrane and others in Glenstrae on 28 May 1519.<sup>6</sup> This was the cause of internal dispute within the Clan as rival stirpes competed for seniority however the support he had from the superior, the Earl of Argyll, was sufficient for him to enforce his claim as heir male to John dubh MacGregor. He *m.* Helen, daughter of Sir Colin Campbell, 1<sup>st</sup> of Glenorchy, (she was widow of Alexander MacEan of Ardnamurchan), *d.* at Achallader on 12 April 1528, was

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<sup>1</sup> GD112/3/9

<sup>2</sup> GD112/2/40/1/2

<sup>3</sup> GD50/186/4/4

<sup>4</sup> Chronicle of Fortingal.

<sup>5</sup> Chronicle of Fortingal.

<sup>6</sup> GD112/2/81/1

buried at Dysart<sup>1</sup> and in his obit he is described as “Captain of the Tribe of Gregor” (captani tribus Gregoriani). He was father of :

1. Gregor MacGregor, who as son and heir to his father had a Precept for infeftment in the lands of Glenstrae on 21 March 1522.<sup>2</sup> He *dsp* at the Isle of Loch Rannoch on 31 July 1522.<sup>3</sup>
2. Alexander MacGregor of Glenstrae, (*see below*).
3. Duncan MacGregor, witness to his brother Alexander’s infeftment in the lands of Glenstrae on 30 May 1540.

**ALEXANDER MACGREGOR OF GLENSTRAE**, succeeded by 3 June 1536, when he was witness to a contract between Archibald, Earl of Argyll, and John Campbell, brother of the deceased Duncan Campbell of Glenorchy, anent the ward of the lands of Glenorchy,<sup>4</sup> and was infeft in the lands of Glenstrae as heir to his deceased father, John MacGregor of Glenstrae, on 30 May 1540.<sup>5</sup> He *d.* by 7 May 1554, and was father of :

1. **JOHN MACGREGOR OF GLENSTRAE**, infeft in the lands of Stronmelochan and others in Glenstrae as his father’s heir on 8 September 1540,<sup>6</sup> and had an assedation from Alexander Menzies of Rannoch on 1 October 1548, relating to the continued possession of the lands of Ennoch until 1549.<sup>7</sup> He *dsp* and was succeeded by his brother Gregor.
2. Gregor MacGregor of Glenstrae, (*see below*).
3. Ewin MacGregor, styled as son to the deceased Allister MacGregor of Glenstrae when he had a Bond of Assurance from William Stewart of Grantully made on behalf of John, Earl of Atholl, to he and his kin and friends, provided that they remain out with the bounds of the Earl’s lands, dated 10 November 1570.<sup>8</sup> He served as Tutor to his nephew Allister MacGregor of Glenstrae during his minority, and had a Tack of the lands of Wester Moreinch from James Menzies of

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<sup>1</sup> Chronicle of Fortingal.

<sup>2</sup> GD112/2/81/2

<sup>3</sup> Chronicle of Fortingal. He is then styled as “filii Joannis M’Gregor alias M’Ewyn V’Allexander de Glenstrae.”

<sup>4</sup> GD112/2/111/1

<sup>5</sup> GD112/2/81/3

<sup>6</sup> GD112/2/81/4

<sup>7</sup> GD50/186/4/46

<sup>8</sup> GD112/2/117/3/27

that Ilk, at the request of Colin, Earl of Argyll, on 13 September 1581.<sup>1</sup> This though, was disputed by Duncan Campbell of Glenorchy and a decret by John, Earl of Atholl, on 15 November 1583, delivered that James Menzies was to grant these lands to the said Duncan for the space of thirteen years provided that none of the Clan Gregor are entered there, with Atholl binding himself to relieve Menzies of any charge which may be brought by Ewen MacGregor as a consequence.<sup>2</sup> He was father of :

3a) Gregor MacGregor, included with his father in the Tack of the lands of Wester Moreinch in September of 1581, and is included with his brothers John and Duncan in a list of members of the Clan Gregor for whom Archibald, Earl of Argyll, was responsible for, dated 25 November 1602. He was executed alongside his Chief, Allister MacGregor of Glenstrae in Edinburgh in 1604.

3a) John MacEwin MacGregor, was tried at Edinburgh on 17 February 1604, and executed with eight others at the Mercat Cross of Edinburgh that same day.

3a) Duncan MacEwin MacGregor, in Moreinch, was named with his brothers Gregor and John in 1602. In 1611, he is referred to as “now callit the Laird” and included in a list of those of the Clan to be apprehended but appeared before the Privy Council on 20 December 1611, when he renounced the surname of MacGregor and adopted that of Douglas. He *m.* Mariot daughter of Malcolm MacFarlane of Gartavertane, and was father of :

3b) Malcolm MacGregor alias Douglas, resided in Stuckinroy and was included in a contract of wadset entered into by his parents and Walter MacFarlane of Gartavertane on 23 January 1623, over the lands of Gartartan which he afterwards renounced on 28 March 1667. He *m.* Mary, daughter of Archibald Campbell, fiar of Glenlyon, (*c/m* 29 April 1660. She was widow of John MacNab of Bovaine, by whom she had issue), and was father of :

3c) **GREGOR MACGREGOR, OF THAT ILK**, succeeded his father and is styled as “Laird of MacGregor” when witness to a Contract of Wadset entered into between Gregor MacGregor in Corarklet and John Buchanan of that Ilk, dated 1 April 1678. He *dsp* on 9 February 1693, aged 32 years and was buried on the Island of Inchcailleach, on Loch Lomond.

3b) Hugh MacGregor, of Kilmannan, named in a Petition by his brother Malcolm to King Charles II., dated 31 March 1651, and was a Captain of a Watch covering the Lennox. He obtained the lands of Kilmannan, in the barony of Mugdock, from

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<sup>1</sup> GD112/2/117/3/47

<sup>2</sup> GD112/2/124/9

James, Earl of Montrose, in 1652, and *m.* Mary, daughter of William Napier of Ardmuir, (*c/m* 27 March 1656), by whom he was father of :

3c) John MacGregor, of Kilmannan, succeeded his father and *d.* prior to 11 January 1680, being father of a natural daughter :

3d) Jean MacGregor, styled as natural and only daughter when she had a Bond from her father for an annualrent of £20 to be uplifted from the lands of Kilmannan on 3 November 1673.

3c) **ARCHIBALD MACGREGOR OF KILMANNAN AND OF THAT ILK**, who was under age at his father's death and had Alexander Napier of Killcreuch, Thomas Napier of Ballichern, Francis Napier, Writer in Edinburgh, and John Roy MacGregor in Stukanroy appointed his Curators. He was infeft in the lands of Kilmannan as heir to his brother on 11 January 1680, and on the death of his cousin Gregor in 1693, he succeeded to the Chiefship of the Clan Gregor and is to be found under the designation "MacGregor of that Ilk." He *d.* without male issue in about 1707 and with the male descendants of Alexander MacGregor of Glenstrae then believe to be extinct, the Clan afterwards elected MacGregor of Balhaldie as Chief in 1714. He *m.* Anna, daughter of Mr. John Cochrane, Minister at Strathblane, (*c/m* 31 May 1679), and was father of :

3d) Hugh MacGregor alias Graham, styled as son of Archibald Graham of Kilmannan in a Sasine dated 1703.

3d) Anna MacGregor, *m.* Alexander Stewart, third son of James Stewart, 4<sup>th</sup> of Ardvorlich, (*c/m* 11 November 1702<sup>1</sup>), and had issue.

4. Duncan Glen MacGregor, is styled as brother to Ewen MacGregor, Tutor of Glenstrae, when witness to a Tack made by James Menzies of that Ilk in favour of this Ewen and Gregor, his son, dated September 1581, and is then styled as residing at Fearnan.<sup>2</sup> He was father of :

4a) Gregor MacGregor, is included with his father and brother Gregor in a charger by Colquhoun of Luss to Archibald, Earl of Argyll, listing those persons of the Clan Gregor Argyll was responsible for, dated 25 November 1602.

4a) Patrick MacGregor,

5. Patrick MacGregor, styled with his brother Ewen and Duncan as sons of the deceased Alexander MacGregor of Glenstrae in a Bond of Assurance by John, Earl of Atholl, dated 5 December 1570.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> RS52/15/f.140

<sup>2</sup> GD112/2/117/3/47

He was also father of a natural son :

6. Alexander Galt MacGregor, who had letters of legitimation dated 7 June 1579.<sup>2</sup>

**GREGOR RUAIDH MACGREGOR OF GLENSTRAE**, the ward of whom with the superiority of the lands of Glenstrae was sold by Archibald, Earl of Argyll, to Catherine Ruthven, spouse of Colin Campbell of Glenorchy, on 7 May 1554, and is then styled as son and heir to the deceased Alexander MacGregor of Glenstrae.<sup>3</sup> He is styled similarly in a Precept issued under the Privy Seal appointing Lawrence Mercer of Meikleour and others as justiciars to try him for various crimes committed in the bounds of Glenorchy, Breadalbane, Balquidder and Menteith on 6 August 1569, and concerning whom Signet letters were issued on 20 November 1569, charging Colin Campbell of Glenorchy to present him before James, Earl of Moray, Regent, on 26 November or the 28<sup>th</sup> at the latest. He made a clandestine marriage with Mary, daughter of Archibald Campbell, 1<sup>st</sup> of Glenlyon, was beheaded at Balloch [Kenmore] on 7 April 1570,<sup>4</sup> and was father of :

1. **ALEXANDER/ALLISTER RUAIDH MACGREGOR OF GLENSTRAE**, was under age at the time of his father's execution in 1570 and was placed under the care of his uncle Ewin MacGregor. As Chief of the Clan during its most turbulent years, he was relentlessly pursued and for leading it at the rout of the Colquhoun force at the battle of Glenfruin in 1603, he was subsequently taken prisoner and executed at Edinburgh in 1604. He is said to have married and to have left a daughter but there is no evidence of this. He was succeeded as Chief by his nephew Gregor, son of his brother John dubh.
2. John dubh MacGregor, was included in a Bond between Alan Cameron of Locheil and Allister MacGregor of Glenstrae, his brother, for giving assistance to Alexander Menzies of that Ilk, dated April 1593.<sup>5</sup> He *m.* Sara, daughter of John Murray of Strowan, and was *k.* at the battle of Glenfruin in 1603, with the gift of his escheat being granted by command of the King to James Murray, fiar of Strowan, on 10 February 1604. He was father of :

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<sup>1</sup> GD112/2/117/1/26

<sup>2</sup> GD155/483

<sup>3</sup> GD112/2/117/1/32

<sup>4</sup> Chronicle of Fortingal. The persecution of her husband and his execution was the subject of her composition of the well-known lament "Grioghail Cridhe".

<sup>5</sup> GD50/186/7/46

2a) **GREGOR MACGREGOR OF STRONMELOCHAN**, against whom and his brother Patrick, Jean Drummond, relict of Colin Campbell, 1<sup>st</sup> of Aberuchill, raised an action for wrongful occupation of the lands of Stronmelochan on 28 June 1622. He petitioned the King James VI., for restitution of those lands previously held by his late uncle Alexander MacGregor of Glenstrae, and in response the King wrote to Lord Scone on 29 June 1620, stating that he had good hopes for the young man and that he gives his consent to Sir Duncan Campbell of Glenorchy offer that he be entered into the lands of Glenstrae and Stronmelochan. Accordingly, on 13 July 1624, he was infeft in these lands as heir to his great-grandfather Alexander MacGregor of Glenstrae, he being the last to have died vested and infeft in them although he subsequently sold them to Glenorchy and purchased those of Seabegs, in Stirlingshire, from David Livingston of Dunipace by contract dated 5 July 1624,<sup>1</sup> in which he was infeft in 24 August following, but which he sold the following year to Sir Robert Spottiswood. He and his brother Patrick were warded in Edinburgh Tolbooth on 30 July 1635, to remain there until they had found surety for the General Band as they had refused to bind themselves as responsible for the entire Clan Gregor. They remained there for some months until on 1 April 1636, King Charles I., informed the Privy Council that both having declared themselves to be without possessions in any part of the Kingdom and had renounced the surname of MacGregor adopting instead, that of Murray, it was his pleasure that they sign the band for their own behaviour and thereafter be set at liberty. He *m.* Margaret Sinclair, (she was widow of John Grant of Carron), and is last mentioned on 3 December 1639. He had issue although details have not been discovered.<sup>2</sup>

2a) Patrick Ruaidh MacGregor of that Ilk, (*see below*).

2a) Ewin MacGregor, was placed into the care of John Murray of Strowan. He afterwards served as a Lieutenant in the regiment raised by Adam Gordon, brother of the Earl of Sutherland, and *d.* during their military expedition in Germany.

**PATRICK RUAIDH MACGREGOR OF THAT ILK**, is named with his elder brother Gregor on a number of occasions. He led the Clan during the Royalist wars, serving under the Marquis of Montrose who in recognition of their service, gave an assurance on 7 June 1645, to have their old possessions restored to them on the restoration of the Monarchy. He *m.* Jean, daughter of Sir Robert Campbell, 9<sup>th</sup> of Glenorchy, (she was widow of

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<sup>1</sup> RD1/453. Sir Duncan Campbell of Glenorchy was to pay the 10,000 merks purchase fee.

<sup>2</sup> In a supplication to the Privy Council on 19 March 1639, requesting permission for him to return home on account of his wife and children being presently “sick of a fever.”

Archibald Campbell, fiar of Glenlyon, whom she had *m.* by *c/m* 25 June 1632, and *m.* thirdly, after Patrick's death, to Duncan Stewart of Appin), and *d.* after January of 1647, and by 27 August 1649, when Jean is styled as his relict. He was father of :

1. James MacGregor of that Ilk, (*see below*).
2. Jean MacGregor, *m.* Allan Cameron, brother of Sir Ewan Cameron of Locheil, (*c/m* 21 August 1666).

**JAMES MACGREGOR OF THAT ILK**, *c.* at Kenmore on 5 January 1647, and being an infant at his father's death, he was placed under the care of Malcolm MacGregor alias Douglas. He entered into a Bond of Friendship with Lachlan MacKinnon of Strathardill on 6 June 1671, based on their common belief of being mutually descended from two brothers of a common ancestor, and *dsp* prior to 1679.